Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
6/25/75

Mr. Barney Rosset
Grove Press
53 E 11 St.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Barney,

Your instincts were absolutely correct.

There is a book in McDonald, if his book is not it.

As I~~m~~ told you, out of concern I had started inquiries. As a result I am still getting information. I expect more. I expect at least one more today.

Your hunch that he needs money despite apparent wealth appears to be good.

It may or may not include the young woman but it does include another indulgence: gambling. On the horses and for years, going back to when he was a sheriff.

The ~~firm~~ friend doing this work for me will be speaking to McDonald today by arrangement made last week. He is an investigative reporter I am able to help often so we have a years-long working relationship. He has sources inside the sheriff's office.

You will rmember McDonald's pretense of the great danger he is under and his protest about leaking, ending with the pseudo-dramatic "and the leaker has to be in this room."

That last part was true. The leaker was in the room. It was McDonald!

The only reporting was of his own statement, the one I had arranged for. It did get extensive coverage, but on one station only and not those he named. It was not the whole west coast. It was Los Angeles.

He has been working on a big Tom Snyder Show deal for a month.

So, call him pathological of not, he is one big liar.

You may not have realized what I was about when I engaged him in conversation about his book Monday. To a degree Dick did. It was subtle. I wanted him to cross himself up and he did repetitiously. And I wanted him to give me more information. He did. Before I was home I was working on it and it is promising. He has to have been CIA. One of the questions about this is when.

I'm sorry the meeting did not last longer. McDonald was really coming apart. I explained this to Dick as we returned to his office. I rather enjoyed this master of interrogations, the man who writes the texts and teaches it, either not realizing what was happening to him in a kind of non-interrogation new to him or coming to realize it too late. I hope he has not yet realized it because he had agreed to an interview if he returned with a contract. If he goes through with the interview it will be taped for radio use and I will have it promptly.

So, I can see an entirely different book, of the kind I think you saw. (No, I do not want to write it. Quite aside from the nonsense he was talking about relating to the Church committee I have a real work of non-fiction completed in which that committee is interested. They phoned me yesterday. I'm meeting tomorrow with a Senator who has been a friend for several decades and a member of his staff, after which the committee staffer is to come here and examine real documents. They also plan to use me to cull out the crap that has been pouring in on them. What he (Mcb)

claimed about that committee investigating assassinations is to my certain knowledge false. However, they do plan an investigation of how the federal agencies functioned, and this has been the area of my work. It is a simple matter to arrange to give material to Congress. However, I preferred waiting for them to come to me. If they did not I'd know they had no serious interest. So, I have this potentially promising situation and other work that means more to me. However, I will help you as much as I can if you later decide to follow your instinct that as of what I now know seems to be quite promising as a novel and to be socially useful. Please let me know if you want me to do more than what I set in motion as soon as I feared someone was intending to hurt you. The cost will be slight.)

I have set up a separate file on this. Including the xerox of the outline you sent me it is now a full box of the size that holds a hundred file folders plus about four hours of taped interviews and reports on this and him.

If you want me to try to develop more for you, I'd appreciate knowing what if anything you learned when you had a drink with him Monday late afternoon. I left Dick's office just as he made that appointment for you.

When I got McDonald to blab the name he has never mentioned to anyone he told me much more than I think even he realized. I'd have followed that further while I was in New York if Dick had not advised against it when I asked him. That did cross over into some of my own earlier work. I have checked my files and my recollection was accurate. It is anything but definitive but it is consistent with what I described to you as a black-book operation.

Please keep what I tell you to yourself, Fred and Dick. There is an aspect of this now that can be hairy.

Including both the trip to New York and the cost of developing the information of which I spoke to Dick my expenses total $166.80. Where receipts were possible they are enclosed. It breaks down to transportation, all forms, $84.65; phones, $62.00; xeroxing, $7.65; and food $12.60.

Sincerely,

cc: Dick Gallen

Harold Weisberg

Dick, because this includes what I take to be a double-cross by McDonald and his people as well as a special kind of pressure I called you last night as soon as my friend phoned me. While I am thoroughly impressed with how good Barney's instinct was I also fear that he can rush off too fast and too soon. So, there is what I am not reporting that I've developed since the blabbing. There is a friend once on the inside with whom I could check. I did it on the layover while returning home. He phoned me back later. It does get into an area of potential danger, hot the McDonald crap on this. I do not think this will reach you before you leave or that you'll have time to fill me in if it does. However, when you return and can find time I'd like to be brought up to date because what I immediately initiated when I was afraid for Barney will continue to deliver information to me. ...I had to change my own plans because the Member of the Church committee is going abroad and wants to see me with the staffer before he does. There is an agreement of confidentiality until the end of the committee's work to permit me to continue efforts to publish. (What this could not do for a book!). The Argosy people were honest, beginning by telling me what you told me about the financial situation and more, what you did not tell me about the current ownership and the pub's recent FBI history.(We were at it until 2 a.m. I had less than three hours' sleep Monday night and had to get up at 5 to do this.) Editorial approval, which does not control, I have.Meanwhile, interest in the subject continues to escalate. CBS yesterday set up an appointment to come here next week. Yesterday they interviewed Lesar on camera for two hours. Another crew is currently active on the West Coast. Hastily and with thanks,